2006–2007

Saskatchewan

Provincial Budget

Performance Plan

First Nations and Métis Relations

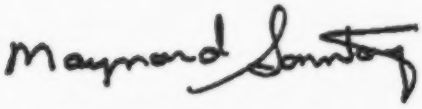
Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the 2006-07 Performance Plan for the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations. This is the first public performance plan of this Department.

Our Department works with First Nations and Métis leaders to support the full and equitable participation of First Nations and Métis people in the Province's social and economic life. The ongoing development of policy to ensure that the Government has a consistent and responsive approach to First Nations and Métis issues will further build on the relations that exist with First Nations and Métis people. Through initiatives such as the Aboriginal Employment Development Program and the First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program, we are working with First Nations and Métis people to ensure that the Province's economy remains strong into the future.

The majority of the Department's 2006-07 budget is to administer and honour commitments made by the Government. The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act and the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement will continue to provide funding to support social and economic development for First Nations and Métis people through the First Nations Trust, Community Development Corporations, and Métis Development Fund. Our administration of the Treaty Land Entitlement settlement agreements will continue the transfer of lands, on a "willing seller-willing buyer" basis, to First Nations.

We commit to complete the actions outlined in the plan and look forward to reporting back with our progress in July 2007.



Maynard Sonntag
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

Who We Are

The First Nations and Métis Relations' (FNMR) mandate is to work with First Nations and Métis people and other orders of government to advance common interests and to improve social and economic outcomes of Aboriginal people. The Department provides leadership within the provincial government to ensure First Nations and Métis priorities and issues are reflected in the development, co-ordination and implementation of government policies and programs. The Department also ensures the Province's obligations with respect to Treaty Land Entitlements are fulfilled.

First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR) was launched as a stand-alone department in 2004. Through the creation of FNMR, the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the important contributions First Nations and Métis people make to our province and the need to build relationships and opportunities that will benefit all Saskatchewan people. The Department works with First Nations and Métis people, communities, organizations and other departments to develop and implement policies and programs that advance shared interests and increase the participation of First Nations and Métis people in the social and economic life of Saskatchewan. To build and manage new relationships, the Department must also work to increase awareness and understanding of the mutual interdependence all residents share by bringing First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginal communities closer together through effective communications and public education.

The Department is located in Regina and employs 40.5 full time equivalent positions. The Department's activities may be summarized into four key areas that are focused on achieving FNMR's goals and objectives. A brief description of each of these areas is outlined below.

FNMR is responsible for managing the Government of Saskatchewan's approach to Aboriginal issues. This responsibility includes building and maintaining relationships, providing leadership within government on Aboriginal issues and co-ordinating the expectations between stakeholders and government with the goal of maintaining a strong corporate approach to First Nations and Métis issues.

FNMR provides leadership to the numerous departments involved in direct program and service delivery relationships with Aboriginal organizations by ensuring departments have a sound understanding of Aboriginal issues and perspectives, as well as, provincial policy positions and jurisdictional matters. In turn, FNMR works to ensure that the Province's policy positions on key issues are effectively and constructively presented to First Nations and Métis people and organizations through its function as a main window through which First Nations and Métis people liaise with the Province.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2005-06, the Department launched the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program aimed at creating and expanding business ventures in Saskatchewan. This initiative will not only expand and diversify the province's economy, but will create new jobs for Saskatchewan's growing First Nations and Métis population.

The Department manages the Province's obligations and interests under the First Nations Gaming Agreement and *Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act*. This program helps to build economic and social development opportunities that are a benefit to the entire province.

ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

Through the Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP), FNMR will continue to increase Aboriginal employment and training opportunities through partnerships involving Aboriginal organizations, unions, and public and private sector employers. The Department will continue to develop new initiatives and partnerships under the AEDP as well as new directions with a focus on education, training and career paths for Aboriginal youth.

TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT

FNMR administers Saskatchewan's legal obligations pursuant to the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Settlement Agreements signed with the federal government and First Nations. FNMR's oversight of the TLE process includes co-ordinating provincial reviews and facilitating the resolution of issues identified in lands selected by Entitlement First Nations for the transfer to reserve status. The Department's Lands and Resources Division ensures provincial interests are met by co-ordinating the responses to land selections and issues with a number of other provincial departments. The TLE agreements ensure that the interests of all Saskatchewan people are protected in the Treaty land entitlement process. One example of this is the stipulation that all land sales must be made on a "willing seller–willing buyer" basis. Treaty land entitlement leads to greater economic and social independence for First Nations peoples and provides economic development opportunities for all members of the Province.

FIRST NATIONS SELF-GOVERNMENT AND MÉTIS ISSUES

FNMR continues to be responsible for ongoing work to advance the Government's agenda with respect to the self-government interests of First Nations peoples at the Meadow Lake First Nations negotiating table and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) self-government table. This includes protecting provincial interests in self-government discussions involving the Meadow Lake First Nations and the Government of Canada.

FNMR works with Métis communities, organizations and individuals to examine issues of mutual concern, including the Métis Aboriginal right to hunt and fish identified in a 2003 Supreme Court of Canada decision. The Department also supports the capacity of Aboriginal women's organizations and Aboriginal urban service delivery organizations to address a variety of issues and concerns.

Plan at a Glance

This is the first Performance Plan for First Nations and Métis Relations since the Department was created on October 1, 2004. This plan is intended to be flexible and adaptive in nature and will evolve over time in response to the changing environment in which the Department operates.

A summary of the Department's Performance Plan for 2006-07 and beyond is provided below. The goals and objectives articulate the long-term outcomes the Department is pursuing in support of its vision. The key actions focus on the specific activities that will be completed in 2006-07 to support the objectives. In addition, a set of preliminary performance measures has been developed that will be used to gauge progress in achieving the objectives. The core principles within the plan are partnership, leadership, innovation and communication.

The Department will report on the actual results as compared to the key actions outlined in this plan in its 2006-07 Annual Report, which will be released in July 2007.

VISION

First Nations and Métis people are full partners in society, contributing to and sharing in the prosperity of our province. All members of society live in mutual respect and harmony.

GOAL 1

First Nations and Métis peoples are full participants in the social, cultural and economic life of the Province

OBJECTIVE 1 – *Increase the participation of First Nations and Métis peoples in the province's workforce and economy*

Performance Measures

- Number of partnership agreements under the AEDP
- Number of Aboriginal people employed by AEDP partnership employer organizations
- Number of Aboriginal people who receive work-based training in partnership employer organizations
- Number of First Nations and Métis businesses supported/expanded through the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program

OBJECTIVE 2 – *Government understands First Nations and Métis peoples' views with respect to their basic rights and needs, and these views are taken into consideration as government policy is reviewed and developed*

Performance Measures

- Under development

OBJECTIVE 3 – *First Nations and Métis leaders, governments, organizations and communities have knowledge and understanding of government policies, programs and services*

Performance Measures

- Under development

OBJECTIVE 4 – *The general public is better informed of the contribution First Nations and Métis peoples make to this province and of the interdependence of our various communities*

Performance Measure

- Number of people receiving Aboriginal cultural awareness education in AEDP partnership employer organizations

GOAL 2

There are effective relations and communications between the Province and First Nations and Métis peoples and governments, and a shared commitment to address First Nations and Métis rights and obligations

OBJECTIVE 1 – *First Nations' land issues are resolved for the mutual benefit of First Nations peoples and the Province*

Performance Measures

- Number of Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements signed
- Number of acres attaining reserve status under Treaty Land Entitlement
- Number of First Nations achieving shortfall acres

OBJECTIVE 2 – *First Nations' aspirations for self-government are addressed for the mutual benefit of all Saskatchewan people*

Performance Measure

- Progress on draft agreements between Meadow Lake First Nations, the federal government and the provincial government on First Nations governance

OBJECTIVE 3 – *Rights and issues important to Métis people are recognized*

Performance Measures

- Under development

OBJECTIVE 4 – *Appropriate departments are involved in and respond to issues that are important to First Nations and Métis peoples*

Performance Measures

- Under development

2006-07 Financial Overview

The Department of First Nations and Métis Relations will invest over $50 million in 2006-07 on specific First Nations and Métis programs and issues. The majority of this will be to satisfy the Government's commitments and legal obligations.

2006-07 ESTIMATES	*(in thousands of dollars)*	
Central Management Services	$	1,735
Policy Co-ordination and Support for Aboriginal Organizations		5,421
Gaming Agreements		29,180
Treaty Land Entitlements		14,759
Total Appropriation	$	51,095
REVENUES	$	0
FTE Staff Complement		40.5

Transfers to third parties for 2006-07 are budgeted as follows:

- First Nations Trust, Community Development Corporations, and the Métis Development Fund (Clarence Campeau Development Fund) to satisfy the Province's obligations under the *Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement – $29.2 million.
- To First Nations to satisfy the Province's obligations under specific Treaty Land Entitlement settlement agreements – $14.8 million.
- To various third party organizations and individuals for the First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program -- $1.5 million.
- To various partner agencies to support Aboriginal employment opportunities and initiatives – $0.7 million.
- To various organizations to support Aboriginal Governance and Cultural initiatives – $0.8 million.

Trends and Issues

First Nations and Métis Relations works in an environment based on relationships with governments, First Nations and Métis organizations and communities. These relationships provide opportunities to further Saskatchewan's interests in the social, economic and cultural arenas. We are responsible for administering a variety of agreements, strategies and programs within a continually changing environment. This section outlines some of the key external issues we face. Our Performance Plan includes key actions that outline how we will address these issues and performance measures to evaluate our progress.

The environment in which FNMR conducts its work is shaped by a number of key factors including:

- The growing First Nations and Métis population in the province and the need to improve their socio-economic outcomes;
- The constitutional status of Aboriginal peoples and recent jurisprudence;
- Federal policy on Aboriginal issues;
- The perception of racial intolerance and the need for better relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people;
- Lobbying efforts;
- Capacity of Aboriginal organizations; and
- Work on Treaty implementation.

NATIONAL

Three significant events have shaped dialogue and work on Aboriginal policy issues in the recent past: the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable on Strengthening the Relationship held on April 19, 2004; the seven sectoral sessions which culminated in a Policy Retreat on May 31, 2005, with the Federal Cabinet Committee on Aboriginal issues and national Aboriginal leaders; and the First Ministers' and National Aboriginal Leaders Meeting (FMM) on Aboriginal issues held in Kelowna, November 24-25, 2005. These events have raised expectations among Aboriginal organizations at the national and provincial/territorial levels. Not only did they give rise to a higher profile for Aboriginal issues in the national media, they resulted in the signing of political accords that outlined new ways of working and the promise of real change in the lives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples throughout Canada.

At the conclusion of the FMM, a document entitled *Strengthening Relationships and Closing the Gap* was released with the endorsement of the Prime Minister, all provincial premiers and the five national Aboriginal leaders. It outlines a 10-year commitment to closing the gap and strengthening relationships between Aboriginal people and governments. While the former Prime Minister made a $5 billion financial commitment in the context of this agreement, many uncertainties surround the federal approach to Aboriginal policy with a new government in place.

The Province will want to position itself to capitalize on the commitments made in Kelowna to fund off-reserve services to First Nations and Métis people in the areas of education and housing. The Province will work with the new federal government in the spirit and intent of those commitments to ensure Saskatchewan's interests are understood and the needs of Saskatchewan's residents are met.

PROVINCIAL

The growing First Nations and Métis population and continuing gaps in employment, education, health and social well-being present the Department with many challenges. There are real opportunities for the Department to work with First Nations and Métis communities to support capacity development and secure meaningful change in the lives of Aboriginal people. Aboriginal issues require broad-based government strategies and partnerships to address the challenges and opportunities in a timely and constructive way. The perception of racial intolerance and the need for a better-informed general public continues to be a concern in Saskatchewan. It is important to ensure the public has an accurate understanding of the historic and contemporary context of the issues.

Educational and job opportunities for Aboriginal people entering the labour market are imperative, for both social and economic reasons. In the absence of such opportunities, Aboriginal peoples' involvement in the criminal justice system as victims or offenders will likely continue, and Aboriginal over-representation could increase.

Under the leadership of the Departments of Justice and Corrections and Public Safety, the government continues to respond to the recommendations of the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform through the development of an Action Plan, *Creating a Healthy, Just, Prosperous and Safe Saskatchewan.* There is considerable overlap in responding to the Justice Commission recommendations and developing policy approaches in government: both require departments to work collaboratively as issues relating to Aboriginal people affect a range of government departments and require their input; and both implicitly require that departments come to some agreement about how they will build respectful, positive working relationships with Aboriginal communities to ensure that the views and interests of Aboriginal people and communities are reflected in policy development.

The duty to consult with Aboriginal people on developments that may infringe on Treaty and Aboriginal rights is another issue that is having a direct impact on provincial departments. FNMR is working with all departments to develop policy on consultation. Involving First Nations and Métis people in broader program and policy decisions is more likely to result in the achievement of better social outcomes for First Nations and Métis people which in turn would benefit the entire province. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), through the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC), are exploring a Treaty-based as opposed to a policy-based approach in responding governance and other issues of significance to First Nations people.

Following an unreliable 2004 Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS) election, the Province suspended funding to the MNS and the federal government followed suit shortly thereafter. In 2005, a panel of prominent Métis citizens in Saskatchewan recommended the MNS hold a new election. The Province has a continuing interest in supporting a Métis electoral process that is accountable to Métis people. In addition, Supreme Court and Provincial Court decisions regarding Métis rights will continue to have direct implications on Saskatchewan hunting and fishing policies and future implications in a wide variety of areas where Aboriginal rights may apply. FNMR will continue to work with other government departments to ensure provincial policy reflects evolving legal decisions.

Progress is being made with respect to negotiating an on-reserve self-government agreement involving Meadow Lake First Nations, Canada and the Province. In addition to on-reserve issues, the parties are addressing off-reserve matters, specifically the development of draft framing agreements to deal with traditional territories and with non-resident citizens. While progress is being made, these are complex issues that take time to resolve.

Goals, Objectives, Actions and Measures

This section contains the Department's detailed 2006-07 Performance Plan which supports First Nations and Métis people becoming full partners in society, contributing to and sharing in the prosperity of our province.

Under each goal, a number of objectives have been established that support progress towards the broader goal statement. For each objective, a set of key actions that will be completed in 2006-07 has been identified. These actions are the means for making progress on the objectives. In addition, performance measures have been established for each objective that will gauge progress towards meeting the objective.

GOAL 1

First Nations and Métis peoples are full participants in the social, cultural and economic life of the province

OBJECTIVE 1 *– Increase the participation of First Nations and Métis peoples in the province's workforce and economy*

The growing First Nations and Métis population is facing poor employment, education, and health outcomes, as well as high rates of involvement in the criminal justice system and children in care. This growing population offers Saskatchewan one of its greatest opportunities to meet future workforce demands and to expand the tax base. Integrating First Nations and Métis people into the mainstream economic structure is consistent with government's desire to ensure no one is left behind on the road to opportunity and will lead to better social and economic outcomes for First Nations and Métis people.

Specifically, this objective speaks directly to the Department's Aboriginal Employment Development Program and the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program. The employment development program builds partnerships and lines of communication between employers, training institutions and Aboriginal people. The economic development program promotes new business development and business expansion in Saskatchewan's key economic sectors, in partnership with Saskatchewan's major Aboriginal funding institutions.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Implement the Representative Workforce Strategy under the Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP).
- Through the AEDP, support the Provincial Aboriginal Representative Workforce Council (PARWC) to develop mechanisms for First Nations and Métis labour force attachment.
- Monitor and manage the Province's obligations under the First Nations Gaming Agreement with respect to the First Nations Trust and Community Development Corporations (CDC).
- Monitor and manage the Province's obligations under the *Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Act* and the agreement between the Province and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan with respect to the Métis Development Fund (Clarence Campeau Development Fund).
- Implement the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program.

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Number of partnership agreements under the AEDP	69 *[February 2006]*

Given the current and projected demographics of the province, it is imperative that Aboriginal people are engaged in the provincial workforce in numbers, and at levels, proportionate to the numbers of Aboriginal people in the general population – the definition of a representative workforce.

Increased partnership agreements are dependent on the level of promotion of the program and provincial employer interest in the program.

What are we measuring?	**Where are we starting from?**
Number of Aboriginal people employed by AEDP partnership employer organizations	1,704 *[March 2005]*

This measure indicates the actual number of aboriginal people employed at a given point in time. The AEDP does not employ people. Through the voluntary partnerships with employers, the program influences the hiring and workplace practices of partners and communicates opportunities to Aboriginal people and organizations. The Department has limited control over the actual hiring.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of Aboriginal people who receive work-based training in partnership employer organizations	1,199 *[March 2005]*

Given the current and projected demographics of the province, it is imperative that Aboriginal people are engaged in the provincial workforce in numbers, and at levels, proportionate to the numbers of Aboriginal people in the general population – the definition of a representative workforce.

Increasing the number of work-based training recipients is dependent on the partner organization's ability to offer training.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of First Nations and Métis businesses supported/expanded through the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program	Under development

This measure will track the number of businesses supported through the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Economic Development Program and those businesses that expand their operations after being supported by this program. Although this is a specific Government program, to provide a portion of the overall financing, there are external factors (e.g., availability of other financing, sound business plans, business management skills, etc.) that will have a significant influence on the creation of more First Nations and Métis businesses in Saskatchewan.

OBJECTIVE 2 – *Government understands First Nations and Métis peoples' views with respect to their basic rights and needs, and these views are taken into consideration as government policy is reviewed and developed*

Ensuring equitable outcomes for First Nations and Métis people requires government to understand the issues and concerns of Aboriginal people. This involves support for First Nations and Métis organizations in their efforts to voice positions and concerns, and share information among departments, agencies and Crown corporations.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Provide support to urban Aboriginal community-based organizations and provincial Aboriginal women's organizations to develop capacity for service delivery and input on provincial initiatives.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Under development	Under development

OBJECTIVE 3 *– First Nations and Métis leaders, governments, organizations and communities have knowledge and understanding of government policies, programs and services*

Communication to First Nations and Métis organizations of Government policies and programs is a critical component in establishing and maintaining solid working relationships. Well established relationships makes it easier for the Province to move forward in the future to address the issues and opportunities that exist for Saskatchewan.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Under development

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Under development	Under development

OBJECTIVE 4 *– The general public is better informed of the contribution First Nations and Métis peoples make to this province and of the interdependence of our various communities*

In order to facilitate a harmonious relationship among all Saskatchewan people, it is necessary to ensure that cultural diversity is understood and supported. FNMR specifically focuses on supporting the cultural diversity that exists in the First Nations and Métis community, so that their culture is understood and accepted, and is not a barrier to integration in the province's economy and society.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- In collaboration with Saskatchewan Justice and other government departments, develop a strategy to address racism in Saskatchewan.
- Promote and support Aboriginal cultural awareness education in Saskatchewan workplaces.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of people receiving Aboriginal cultural awareness education in AEDP partnership employer organizations	12,447 *[March 2005]*

Given the current and projected demographics of the province, it is imperative that Aboriginal people are engaged in the provincial workforce in numbers, and at levels, proportionate to the numbers of Aboriginal people in the general population – the definition of a representative workforce.

An important component of workplace preparation involves dispelling myths and misconceptions about Aboriginal people to ensure a welcoming, respectful environment. This is achieved through Aboriginal cultural awareness education.

Increasing the number of individuals receiving cultural awareness education is dependent on the partner organization's ability to offer the education.

GOAL 2

There are effective relations and communications between the Province and First Nations and Métis peoples and governments, and a shared commitment to address First Nations and Métis rights and obligations

***OBJECTIVE 1** – First Nations' land issues are resolved for the mutual benefit of First Nations people and the Province*

The Province of Saskatchewan has specific legal and constitutional obligations to First Nations people. The Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) process exists because First Nations did not, in all instances, receive the land that was promised to them in the Treaties. Under the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (1930), Saskatchewan has a legal obligation to provide land so that Canada can fulfill these promises. Saskatchewan is committed to honouring its constitutional obligations to Canada by negotiating agreements to resolve long outstanding First Nations' claims through the 1992 TLE Framework Agreement and Settlement Agreements.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Co-ordinate the implementation of the Province's obligations arising from the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Agreements.
- Negotiate new Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements as necessary.
- Co-ordinate the implementation of the Province's obligations arising from the Memorandum of Agreement Facilitation of the implementation of specific claims settlements.
- Co-ordinate the Province's obligations under the Amended Cost-Share Agreement.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of Treaty Land Entitlement Agreements signed	29 *[March 2005]*

This performance measure fulfils the terms of the TLE Settlement Agreements. As reserves increase in size, First Nations have more opportunities to initiate economic development projects, which lead to increased economic viability for First Nations members.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of acres attaining reserve status under Treaty Land Entitlement	634,563 acres *[March 2005]*

The number of acres attaining reserve status is dependent on individual First Nations selection of lands.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Number of First Nations achieving shortfall acres	12 *[March 2005]*

The TLE process exists because First Nations did not, in all instances, receive the land that was promised to them in the Treaties.

Under the terms of the *Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement* and TLE Settlements, First Nations must acquire and transfer to Reserve status the amount of land they should have received (shortfall acres) if all First Nations people were counted at the time of original survey.

OBJECTIVE 2 – *First Nations' aspirations for self-government are addressed for the mutual benefit of all Saskatchewan people*

The Province recognizes the inherent right to self-government for First Nations people. Saskatchewan is involved in negotiating a self-government agreement with the Meadow Lake First Nations and the Government of Canada, and is an active observer of the discussions involving the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation to explore governance models.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Negotiate an on-reserve self-government agreement with Meadow Lake First Nations (MLFN) and the Government of Canada for the mutual benefit of all Saskatchewan people.
- Continue to negotiate a draft framework agreement respecting traditional territories and a draft framework agreement respecting non-resident citizens between MLFN and Canada

What are we measuring?

Progress on draft agreements between Meadow Lake First Nations, the federal government and the provincial government on First Nations governance

Where are we starting from?

Canada, Saskatchewan and seven First Nations in the Meadow Lake area signed the MLTC self-government Agreements-in-Principle that formally committed Saskatchewan to enter the second phase of negotiations leading to final agreements for on-reserve self-government.
[January 2001]

Self-government is a vehicle to improve the quality of life and opportunities available to the First Nations, through processes controlled by, and accountable to, First Nations people. While the primary relationship in the self-government negotiations is between the Meadow Lake First Nations and the federal government, Saskatchewan's involvement at the negotiating table protects provincial interests and ensures that any arrangements reached with respect to on-reserve self-government are compatible with provincial laws and practices.

Negotiations on the agreements respecting traditional territories and non-resident citizens are essential components that constitute the overall self-government negotiation process.

The level of success in reaching these targets is also dependent on Canada and MLFN commitment to the process.

***OBJECTIVE 3** – Rights and issues important to Métis people are recognized*

Governance concepts and issues of mutual concern to the Province and Métis people, including recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions and electoral reform, are recognized. The Province supports initiatives to address these concerns with Métis people and communities.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Facilitate processes leading up to and holding a fair and democratic Métis election.
- Renew relationships with a fair and democratically elected Métis executive.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Under development	Under development

OBJECTIVE 4 *– Appropriate departments are involved in and respond to issues that are important to First Nations and Métis peoples*

The Department provides leadership to the numerous departments involved in direct program and service delivery relationships with Aboriginal organizations by ensuring departments have a sound understanding of Aboriginal issues and perspectives as well as provincial policy positions and jurisdictional matters. Just as First Nations and Métis people utilize all government services, all government departments must be part of the response to issues. FNMR provides the leadership for those responses by both maintaining provincial level relationships with organizations and promoting the development of direct relationships between departments and First Nations and Métis people on specific issues.

Key Actions for 2006-07

- Develop First Nations and Métis policy and processes in co-operation with Executive Council and other government departments and Crown corporations.
- Co-ordinate the development of consultation policy to address the Province's obligation to consult with Aboriginal people.
- Co-ordinate and support provincial departments' First Nations and Métis capacity development efforts.
- Work with the federal government, other provincial and territorial governments and national Aboriginal organizations through intergovernmental processes.
- Undertake co-operative initiatives with the federal government to address the needs of off-reserve First Nations people and Métis people.

What are we measuring?	Where are we starting from?
Under development	Under development

For More Information

Additional information about FNMR is available on the Department's website, viewable on the Internet at http://www/fnmr.gov.sk.ca.

The website includes both general and more detailed information about the Department, its programs and services, and legislation for which the Department is responsible.

For further information about First Nations and Métis Relations or to provide feedback about the Department's 2006-07 Performance Plan, please contact us:

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